DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 044 362 SP 004 320

TITLE	General Learning Corporation and Teacher Education 1970. A Report to Superintendents.
INSTITUTION	General Learning Corp., Washington, D.C.
PUB DATE	70
NOTE	12p.
EDRS PRICE	EDRS Price MF-$0.25 HC-$0.70
DESCRIPTORS	*Instructional Materials, *Teacher Education
IDENTIFIERS	General Learning Corporation

ABSTRACT

This booklet briefly describes ten recent General Learning Corporation (GLC) projects designated as a cross-section which reflects concern with and work toward better teacher instructional development. Addresses for further information are included with each sketch: 1) teachers' guides and consultant aid for use with GLC textbooks; 2) elementary mathmetics films--12 for teacher training and 30 for use in grades 4-7; 3) a laboratory-centered, self-pacing curriculum program for junior high science; 4) training of 39 Peace Corps volunteers as English, mathematics, and vocational education teachers in Ethopia; 5) training of 200 area residents as community reading assistants to help motivate children by providing personalized reading experience both in the school setting and at home; 6) development of the "Teacher Effectiveness Program" to train Job Corps teachers; 7) publication of "The New Nursery School," a book with six accompanying pamphlets for planning and implementing classroom activities to achieve a variety of objectives; 8) the "Teacher Skills" package, a multi-media program of 34 sound/color films and ten instructional manuals for preservice or inservice improvement of teacher technical skills; 9) An Instructional Development Experience (AIDE), a workshop for school administrators to demonstrate alternative modes of inservice teacher training; and 10) "ID (Instructional Development)," a monthly newsletter for school administrators. (JS)

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General Learning Corporation and Teacher Education 1970

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A
Report
to
Superintendents

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INTRODUCTION

This report mentions a cross-section of General Learning's projects over the last year which reflect our concern with and work toward better teacher instructional development. At the bottom of each short item a contact and a locale are provided for those who wish to pursue an individual interest with one of our personnel. The necessary addresses are:

In Morristown, New Jersey...

General Learning Corporation
Silver Burdett Company
250 James Street
Morristown, New Jersey 07690
(201) JE 8-0400

In New York City...

General Learning Corporation
3 East 54th Street
New York, New York 10022
(212) 421-9850

In Washington, D. C....

General Learning Corporation
5454 Wisconsin Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036
(301) 657-2610

Regional addresses are supplied on page two.

TEACHER'S GUIDE AND CONSULTANTS

Since 1885, the Silver Burdett Division of General Learning Corporation has been providing the nation's schools with instructional materials. Every effort is made to create textbooks that are useful and attractive to both students and teachers. In addition, teachers are supplied with special editions and guides filled with background material and teaching suggestions.

Silver Burdett also makes available a staff of consultants that help teachers use their instructional materials more effectively. Skilled educators, their backgrounds include practical teaching experience, study for advanced degrees, and a great deal of travel for classroom conferences. Their experience as educational consultants has brought them into contact with some of the finest teachers in America. Working with these teachers in a variety of circumstances has expanded their vision and deepened their understanding of teachers' problems and needs.

For more information, contact your local Silver Burdett Regional Office:

Morristown, New Jersey 07690
460 S. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068
435 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, California 94301
3272 Peachtree Road, N. E. Atlanta, Georgia 30305
4640 Harry Hines Boulevard, Dallas, Texas 75235

ELEMENTARY MATHEMATICS FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

This series of 42 films has been created by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the General Learning Corporation to meet a critical need in mathematics education. Twelve of these films offer an in-depth look at rational numbers for preservice and in-service teacher training. They provide first a careful concept exposition, then show the concept being presented to students in a variety of classroom situations.

The other 30 films have been designed for classroom use with students primarily in grades four through seven. They may be used to introduce or extend and enrich student understanding of rational and fractional numbers, and area identified as one in which teachers and students particulary need teaching materials.

For more information, contact Mr. John Jenkin, in Morristown, New Jersey 07690.

ELEMENTARY MATHEMATICS FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

PROBING THE NATURAL WORLD

This fall Silver Burdett will publish the first volume of a new science curriculum for junior high schools. Probing the Natural World, ISCS Volume 1, is a laboratory-centered, self-pacing program developed by the Intermediate Science Curriculum Study at Florida State University. Included in this program are carefully designed guides to help teachers adjust to this new approach to science. Special regional workshops, sponsored by Silver Burdett, are planned to supplement those already offered by Florida State University with the support of the National Science Foundation.

For more information, contact Mr. Sherman Swanson, in Morristown New Jersey 07690.

TRAINING TEACHERS FOR THE PEACE CORPS

In the summer of 1969, GLC's Educational Services Division trained 39 Peace Corps Volunteers to be English-as-a-Second-Language, math, and vocational education teachers in Ethiopia. For the first three weeks, trainees participated in a micro-teaching laboratory where brief lessons were taught daily to small groups of children. Each trainee received an immediate critique of his performance and then retaught the same lesson to a different group of children. During the last two weeks, the trainees taught full-length lessons to large classes of children hired from the surrounding neighborhood, a largely non-English-speaking, middle to lower class area of Washington, D. C. As part of the training experience, the volunteers lived in with neighborhood families and participated in community activities and workshops. At the end of the five-week training period, all but three trainees were selected to go on to Ethiopia for further, on-site training.

For more information, contact Miss Maureen Carroll in General Learning's Washington office.

A CADRE' OF COMMUNITY READING ASSISTANTS

In Washington, D. C.'s Anacostia region, the Educational Services Division trained two hundred area residents as Community Reading Assistants to help motivate children by providing personalized reading experiences both in the school setting and at home. The training was keyed around a series of workshops presented by General Learning, and the creation of Innovation Teams made up of residents and teachers to follow up the workshops. Subsequently, several hundred children attended a summer day camp where reading was taught by the community people.

Coordinating the Anacostia project for General Learning was Mrs. Polly Greenberg. One of the original designers of the acclaimed Head Start program, Mrs. Greenberg's recent book, The Devil Has Slippery Shoes, (Macmillan 1969), describes the travails of one of that program's most controversial outgrowths, the Child Development Group of Mississippi.

For more information on Anacostia, contact Mrs. Greenberg in General Learning's Washington, D. C. office.

THE "TEACHER EFFECTIVENESS PROGRAM"

While running the Clinton, Iowa, Jobs Corps center for two and a half years, GLC's Career Programs Division had to confront and solve many instructional problems. Staff training played a critical role in enabling the teachers and counselors to do their jobs effectively.

Out of these experiences with the disadvantaged came Career Program's "Teacher Effectiveness Program," designed to improve a teacher's capabilities and performance in three main areas:

- the ways in which he taught
- his comprehension of what he taught
- his ability to relate to others

Taking thirty hours over an eight-week period, the program involved teachers in games, role-playing sessions, and discussion groups that helped him learn what kind of person and teacher he was and could become. Today, the program is being streamlined for use in GLC's new urban Job Corps center, which will be in operation by June 1970 in St. Louis, Missouri.

For more information, contact Dr. William Atkins at General Learning Corp., Sportsman's Inn, 4625 North Lindberg Blvd., Bridgeton, Missouri.

FOR TEACHERS OF THE VERY YOUNG

GLC's Learning Aids Division has made a significant contribution to teacher education with the publication in 1969 of The New Nursery School, by Glen Nimnicht, Oralie McAfee, and John Meier. The book, with its six accompanying pamphlets, is based on the authors' experimental work with Spanish-American preschool children in Greenley, Colorado. The package provides teachers with a comprehensive guide for planning and implementing classroom activities to achieve a variety of objectives. These include the development of a positive self image and the promotion of four basic intellectual skills: senses and perceptual acuity, language development, concept formation, and problem solving. The six Learning Activities Booklets present a series of learning "episodes" that provide teachers with detailed guidance for implementing activities organized around these objectives.

For more information on Learning Aids Division activities, contact Miss Joan Bryce at General Learning's Morristown, New Jersey office.

THE "TEACHING SKILLS" PACKAGE

General Learning's Instructional Development component is currently offering a multimedia program for improving the technical skills of teachers in both preservice and in-service settings. "Teaching Skills for Elementary and Secondary School Teachers" is a package of 34 sound/color films and 10 instructional manuals. The materials were originally developed in conjunction with the work of the Stanford University micro-teaching clinic, and they are adaptable to a variety of teacher training situations.

In each short film, an experienced teacher utilizes a specific professional skill before a small group of students. The accompanying manuals, divided into skill "clusters," present a written introduction to the skill, suggest training drills for practice in the skill, include a transcript of the film with commentary, and provide an evaluation sheet for use by supervisors and students in order to measure the teacher's level of skill acquisition.

Field tests and adoptions have occurred in both urban and suburban settings. Results indicate the materials are proving to be an effective tool.

For more information, contact Miss Renée Cherow in General Learning's New York office.

AIDE -- AN INSTRUCTIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

The continued professional growth of instructional personnel is crucial in schools. An Instructional Development Experience (AIDE) is a workshop designed to contribute meaningfully to in-service efforts to augment this growth.

The purpose of AIDE is to demonstrate practical, multimedia, flexible, and tested alternative modes in upgrading professionals. Superintendents, principals, supervisors, department chairmen, and others interested in working with teachers are the appropriate audience for AIDE sessions.

AIDE consists of three elements, each of which is the motif for a one day meeting, The current variety of in-service training strategies are explained and explored in the first day. The second day's experimental learning sessions broaden the participants understanding of specific strategies. On the third day participants and seminar leaders examine ways in which strategies can be adapted to the needs of particular schools of institutions.

For more information about AIDE, contact Dr. David Bickimer in General Learning's New York office.

ID (INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT), A Monthly Newsletter

In the fall of 1969, General Learning published the first issue of a monthly professional newsletter, Instructor Development. ID was designed to provide its readers with a number of useful services. There are reports on trends and innovations in in-service education, discussions of staff development priorities, and helpful ideas on how to organize in-service programs. In addition, current materials are surveyed and reviewed and there is a section--potentially of great interest to school administrators--on people who are needed, available, or on the move, as in-service specialists.

To learn more about Instructor Development, contact either Dr. David Bickimer or Miss Tenée Cherow in GLC's New York office. Bulk order subscription rates, an at-cost service of General Learning, are listed below. A free personal subscription accompanies each bulk order.

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